What is claimed is:

1.   A method of operating a financial document processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a)   monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;

    (b)   storing a number of operating parameters of step (a) into a database; and

    (c)   processing at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition.

2.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    (d)   displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.

3.   A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    (d)   periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.

4.   A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

    (e)   alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

5.   A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

    (e)   logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(d) displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein step (d) includes the step of:

(d-1) displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.

8. A financial document processing system comprising:

means for monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;

means for storing a number of operating parameters into a database; and

means for processing at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition.

9. A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.

10. A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.

11. A financial document processing system according to claim 10, further comprising means for alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

12. A financial document processing system according to claim 10, further comprising means for logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

13. A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

14. A financial document processing system according to claim 13, wherein the displaying means includes means for displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.

15. A program storage medium readable by a computer having a memory, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for operating a financial document processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

    (a) monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;

    (b) storing a number of operating parameters of step (a) into a database; and

    (c) processing at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition.

16. A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

    (d) displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.

17. A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(d) periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.

18. A program storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(e) alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

19. A program storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(e) logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

20. A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(d) displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

21. A program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(d-1) displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.